

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 2, 2003. Claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 20, 21, 29-31 and 33-53 have been canceled without prejudice and claims 3, 5, 6, 18, 22, 24, 25 and 32 have been amended. Claims 3-11, 14-19, 22-28 and 32 are pending in this application, with claims 3, 5, 6, 14, 15, 22, 24, 25 and 32 being in independent form. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 14-19 and 32 are allowable and claims 3, 4, 6-11, 22, 23 and 25-28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection of the claims, claims 3, 6, 22 and 25 have been amended to be in independent form. It should be noted that claim 25 does not include the limitations of claim 21 from which it depended. However, it is believed that claim 25 is nevertheless allowable as it now stands. Accordingly, it is submitted that these claims and their respective dependent claims are also now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 12, 13, 20, 21, 24, 29-31, 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Japanese Patent 61-27874 to Ishikawa et al.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent claims 1, 20, 30, 31, 33 and 34 have been canceled without prejudice. In addition, withdrawn claims 35-53 have also been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 5 and 24 have been amended to be in independent form. It should be noted that claim 24 does not include the limitations of claim 21 from which it depended. In any event, it is believed that claims 5 and 24 are believed to be patentable over the cited art for at least reasons similar to claim 14.

For example, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion of a sheet folding/pressing device having a pair of sheet folding rollers and a pair of supplementary pressing rollers, wherein the pair of supplementary pressing rollers is arranged downstream of the pair of sheet folding rollers in the direction the folded sheet is conveyed and is angled relative to the pair of sheet folding rollers, and wherein a distance between a nip portion of the pair of supplementary rollers and a nip portion of the pair of the sheet folding rollers at a position corresponding to a widthwise edge of the folded sheet, at a side of a widthwise direction where the pair of the supplementary rollers and the pair of sheet folding rollers are farther separated from each other, is shorter than a length of the folded sheet in the direction the folded sheet is conveyed, as recited in independent claim 5.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

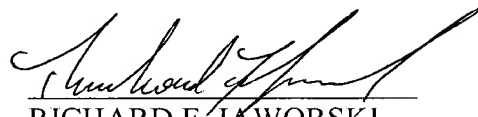
If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the

requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard F. Jaworski", written over a horizontal line.

RICHARD F. JAWORSKI

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